

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 20, 2018

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler  
Acting Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

The Honorable Betsy DeVos  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos and Acting Administrator Wheeler:

In July of 2018, the Government Accountability Service (GAO) released a study to review state and school district practices for lead testing and remediation efforts to protect children from exposure to lead in school drinking water. The GAO conducted this report after receiving several separate requests from Rep. Mike Quigley, Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr., Rep. Rosa DeLauro, Rep. Paul Tonko, Senator Patty Murray, and Senator Brian Schatz.

In this study, GAO found that only 43 percent of school districts nationwide tested for lead in their schools' drinking water in 2017, and of those that tested, 37 percent found elevated lead levels. Also troubling, the report found that 16 percent of school districts did not know if they test for lead. Furthermore, GAO concluded that despite the Department of Education and EPA's 2005 memorandum of understanding, your agencies do not regularly collaborate to support state and school district efforts on lead in drinking water. This is disturbing and unacceptable, as these practices would ensure that more schools have the necessary resources to limit student and staff exposure to lead.

No child should be put at risk for toxic lead exposure simply by drinking water at school. We, the undersigned, urge you to take immediate action to finalize protective guidance requiring lead testing in all public schools. This includes requiring schools and school districts to test for lead in all fixtures; providing bottled water or lead infiltration devices for any schools exceeding the action level now and in the future; and submitting quarterly reports to Congress on your agencies collaboration efforts to reduce exposure to lead in school drinking water.

As Members of Congress, we are committed to ensuring that states and localities have the funding and resources necessary to remediate lead in their schools and throughout their drinking water systems if it is discovered. We stand ready to work with you to more effectively address this nationwide drinking water crisis.

Thank you,

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515




Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



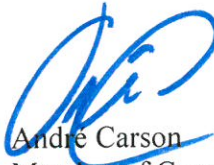
Salud O. Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Nanette Barragán  
Member of Congress



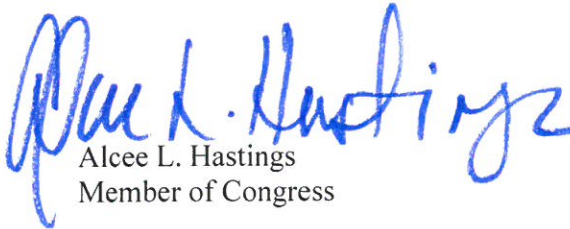
André Carson  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



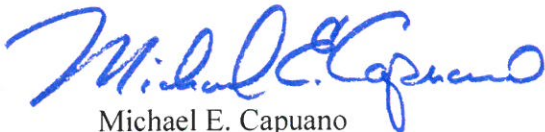
Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



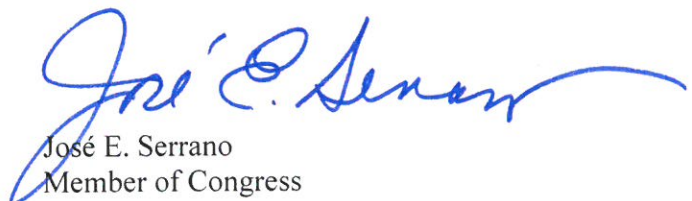
Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



Val Butler Demings  
Member of Congress



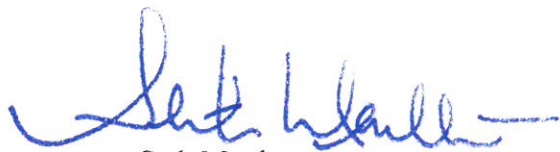
Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress



Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress




Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



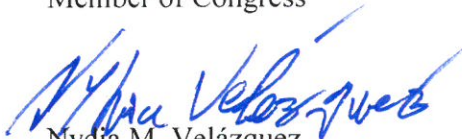
Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee  
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

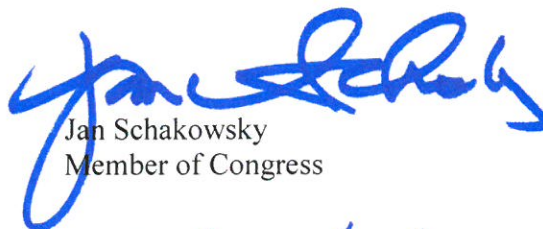


Al Green  
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress

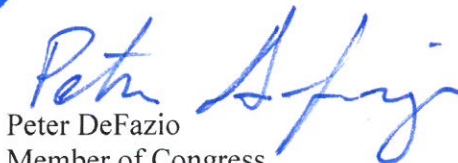
M.C.



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



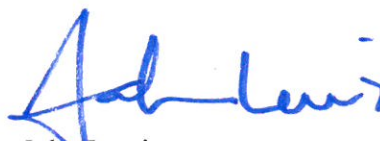
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



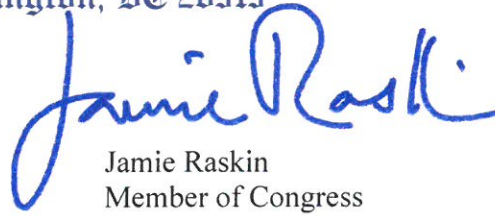
Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress



John Lewis  
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

  
Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

  
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress